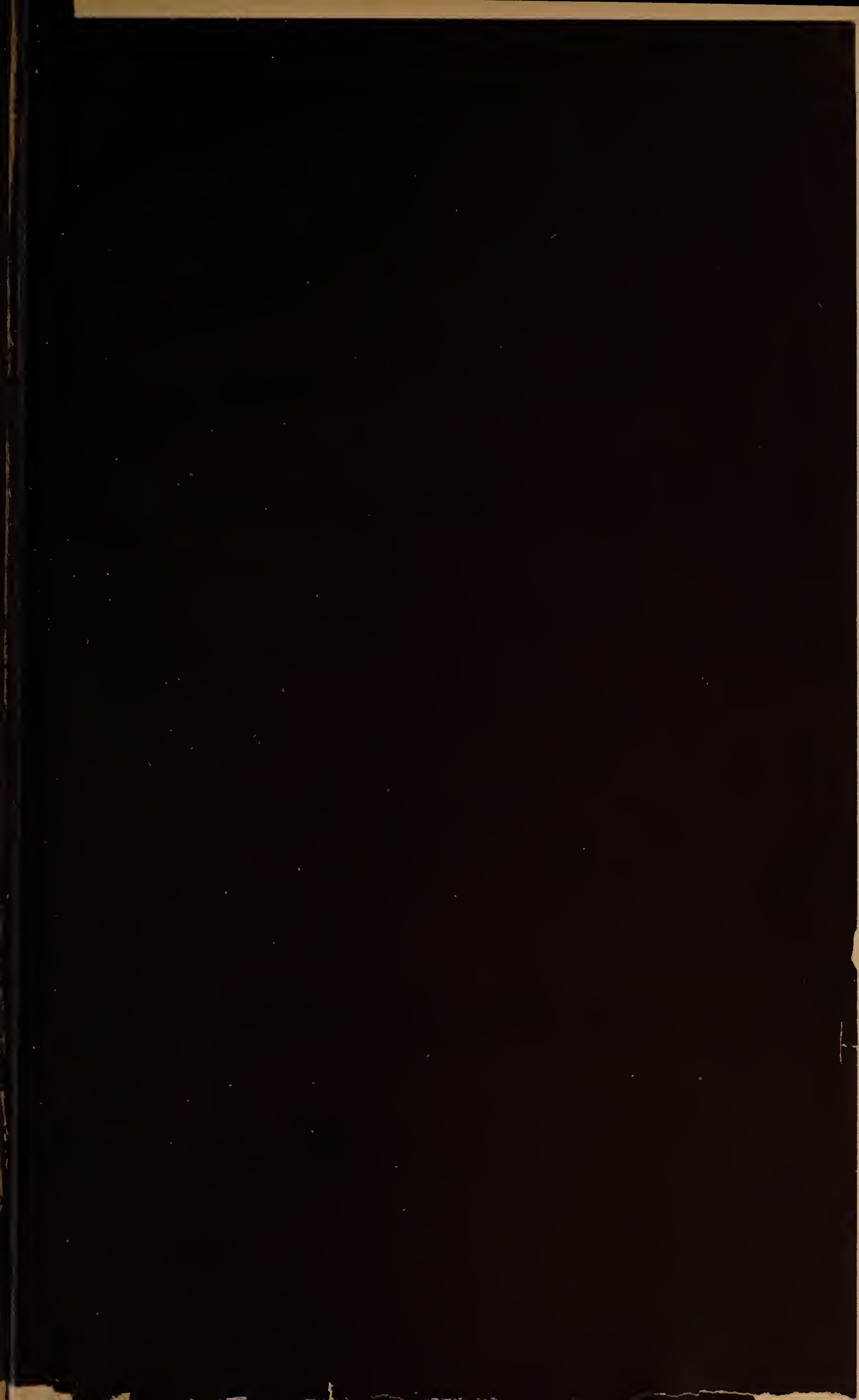


ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS
DEPARTMENT



FOR THE YEAR 1897.



COMPLIMENTS OF

Trustees for Children.



1st.

ANNUAL REPORT
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FOR THE
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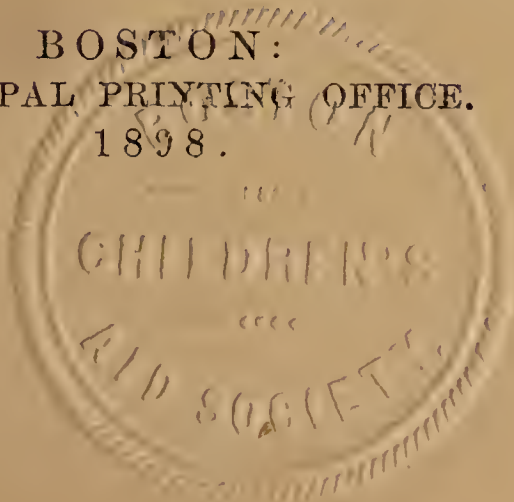




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DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS,
TRUSTEES FOR CHILDREN, OFFICE OF THE BOARD,
32 TREMONT STREET, ROOM B, February 1, 1898.

HON. JOSIAH QUINCY,

Mayor of the City of Boston :

SIR : In accordance with chapter 3, section 22, of the Revised Ordinances, the Board of Trustees for Children presents its annual report for the financial year ending January 31, 1898, it being the first year of the Department of Children's Institutions and the fortieth of the Institutions Department, now divided by chapter 395 of the Acts of 1897 into four, of which this department is one.

The change in administration was affected in June as prescribed by the act aforesaid, the present seven trustees being appointed by your Honor on June 14, to serve respectively as follows :

HORATIO A. LAMB, five years.

CHARLES P. PUTNAM, M.D., four years.

MRS. WILLIAM J. QUINN, four years.

CHARLES V. DASEY, three years.

MRS. DAVIS R. DEWEY, two years.

MISS EMILY G. BALCH, two years.

JOHN O'HARE, one year.

This report covers more specifically the last seven months during which the present administration has been in charge, but the entire year is also reported on, and the financial and statistical reports include, of course, the entire twelve months.

PLACING-OUT AND OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Office Organization.—Chapter 395 of the Acts of 1897 creates the Board of Trustees for Children as a Board distinct and independent, though kept in close touch with the related departments of the city, through the office of the Institutions Registrar and the quarterly conferences with the Mayor, together with delegates from the Department of Pauper Institutions, the Department of Institutions for the Insane, the Overseers of the Poor, and the Penal Commissioner, as prescribed by the constituting act. This independence naturally tends to greater system and simplicity in the organization of the office force. We are endeavoring to make the important work of recording and correlating the work of the different children's institutions more satisfactory. Moreover, a large part of the most delicate and far-reaching of our functions centre here, the finding and investigating of possible homes in which to place children, the visitation and care of children placed in these homes, and the investigation of the homes of children whose admission, release or discharge is in question.

For many years children have been "placed out" by the predecessors of the Trustees for Children. These children may be (1) Boys from the House of Reformation who are believed to be fit to leave the institution but who have no homes or no proper homes. (2) Children, technically called neglected children, taken from their parents or guardians and placed in charge of the Trustees by a court. (3) Children placed in the charge of the Trustees by parents or guardians or others on account of poverty, technically called "pauper children." (4) Truant boys or girls who are fit to leave the Parental School but, having no proper homes, are permitted to leave the school on condition that they will stay in the family selected by the Trustees.

For the younger children and those requiring special care, board is paid. They are for the most part in private families in the country. Some children, who are mentally defective, have been placed in the Massachusetts School for Feeble Minded. Others have, for various reasons, been placed in other institutions.

The older children are ordinarily placed in homes without

payment for board; where the services they can properly render are of sufficient value, they receive wages.

As far as practicable children are placed in families of the same religious faith as their parents.

The Trustees have adopted the placing-out system, and have extended it very greatly, as appears by the report of the agent in charge of this branch of the work.

The great advantage of letting children grow up in families instead of in institutions has been set forth by many writers, and is fully appreciated by the present Trustees; but the importance of securing only good homes and of carefully watching the children placed in them is also fully appreciated.

All over this State and in some of the neighboring States, children are growing up under influences healthy to both mind and body who would otherwise have lived in institutions or in homes of the worst character. In many cases the children live year after year as members of the family, or are actually legally adopted by them. In many cases the children, as well as the neighbors, are unaware that they are "city" children, and a considerable number are now well married; others are respected men and women in the communities where they have spent their childhood. The relation of the children to their temporary foster mothers is often most affectionate. It is gratifying to see with what solicitude they are in many cases cared for when ill, or brought in to the special hospitals for treatment when attention is needed for eyes, ears, throat, etc. Several of the Trustees have visited a good number of these families both with and without the regular visitors.

Children are also often placed on probation in their own homes, and these too are visited regularly by the visitors and also occasionally by one of the Trustees.

The home of every child committed by a court as a neglected child, or to the House of Reformation, is also visited at the time of commitment in order to acquaint the Trustees with the family and surroundings and the cause of commitment.

The home of every child for whom application is made as a pauper, is also investigated before admission, and sometimes it turns out that the child may be cared for better in some other way.

The home of every child for whose release application is made, is also investigated in order to assist the Trustees in deciding the difficult question whether or not a child can safely be allowed to go home on probation.

All children committed by a court that are released on probation are at once taken back by the Trustees if they do not do well at home or in the place found for them.

The agents and visitors are constantly in touch with the Trustees, and day after day questions are considered between them as to special cases of children and this branch of the work in general.

The office of the Trustees at 32 Tremont street, Room B, is a busy place. Not only are the visitors coming in and out and doing their writing there, but the supplies of clothing for the children are kept in the office, and not infrequently there is a group of children, little and big, who are on their way to or from their places.

Satisfactory as this branch of the work is in many ways, we feel that we have only made a beginning, and that many improvements are still before us, including the work of systematizing and perfecting the records of individual children, of places, and of visitation.

MARCELLA-STREET HOME.

In the heart of our city, surrounded by a wooden fence 10 feet high, with barbed wire on its top, stands a large building which was formerly the Roxbury almshouse, afterwards a soldiers' hospital, and which finally became the Marcella-street Home, the institution to which Boston sends the children whose parents are unable to care for them, and the children of those whose cruelty and neglect have caused the courts to send them there. In 1879 a large addition was built for girls of the same class, who until that time went to Deer Island. On one side of this high fence are the city stables, breeding rats, on another a dump, where until last year, city swill was deposited. In this prison, under lock and key, these innocent children, deprived of their homes through no fault of their own, are expected to grow up into self-respecting citizens.

The Trustees, upon taking charge of this institution, were appalled at the situation, and have given much attention to its needs.

The schools have been entirely changed, and are now a part of the public school system, having been formally handed over to the School Committee of the city of Boston previous to the opening of the public schools in September. The school is in the Lowell School District, of which Mr. D. W. Jones is head master. The children, in cleanliness and deportment, now compare favorably with those in

our other public schools. The Trustees endeavored to have these children taken into the public schools in the neighborhood, and firmly expect in time to accomplish this much desired change.

The danger from fire has been a source of anxiety to the Fire Department for a long time, but now new fire escapes have been provided and old ones repaired, and new fire hose placed about the buildings, the old having been worthless.

The food of the children has been improved and is now bought and examined by an expert, Miss S. E. Wentworth.

Expenses have been lessened in various ways consistent with the welfare of the children; for instance, unnecessary employees have been dispensed with, and the two horses sent away, as supplies are now delivered without charge.

But, better than all this, the number of children has been reduced from 321, the largest number at any one time during the year, to 160, the number present on January 31, 1898. This reduction has been effected by sending the children to homes in the country. We propose to reduce the number still further in the same way.

The Board of Trustees is earnestly doing all in its power to bring about the sale of this unsuitable property, hoping to be enabled to build a fitting home for these children in a less crowded neighborhood, where land will be less valuable, so that pleasanter and more wholesome playgrounds may be provided, and where greater freedom and opportunity for more rural life may be possible, while at the same time less public capital will be locked up in the real estate used by the institution. While the Trustees believe that the best results are attained by placing the children in carefully selected homes, they also feel that it is impossible to carry on this work without an institution as a receiving depot, and for certain other uses.

HOUSE OF REFORMATION FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

With an increased number of boys over any previous year, the necessity of a more suitable location than Rainsford Island has strongly impressed itself upon the Board of Trustees. The buildings are entirely inadequate, being old, and originally intended for other purposes than those for which they are now occupied. They are lacking in sufficient space for lavatory and recreation rooms; the school-rooms are contracted, the dormitories defective, and the entire plant thoroughly unsuited for a modern reformatory system, such as we desire to see established in the city of Boston.

The area of the island is so small it would not permit new buildings of the kind desired and leave sufficient space for recreation and out-door occupation, for which it is already insufficient.

We therefore hesitate to recommend extensive alterations entailing great expense to the city, as we feel that the necessity of transferring the institution to a more favorable site, and to one on the mainland, will be considered with favor by the city government, and thus save the unnecessary expense which would be encountered if any but ordinary repairs were undertaken.

Should our desires be gratified for a new reformatory in a proper location on the mainland, the most earnest efforts of the Trustees would be exerted to secure modern buildings of the most approved type, suitable for the purposes of the institution.

With the introduction of the cottage system, family houses to be occupied by thirty to thirty-five boys, properly classified, under the care and superintendence of a master and matron, would be constructed, not too far apart, yet sufficiently so that ample space might be allowed for independent action, care of grounds and recreation purposes. The home life thus added would be in direct contrast with the present management at Rainsford Island, the individuality of the boy would be retained and broadened, and a higher moral standard could be reached in the development of his character and behavior.

Schools.

The change made during the past year in appointing women as teachers in two of the school-rooms, as well as in the Sloyd department, has been productive of gratifying results, not only in the matter of studies, but also in the personality of the boys. There are fewer infractions of the rules, and therefore less punishment and more attention to personal appearance and deportment.

The class-rooms are overcrowded, containing numbers sufficient for five classes. Owing to lack of room this cannot be remedied but must continue till a new institution affords us better facilities.

Special attention has been given to instruction in athletics for the boys, and a new yard officer has been selected who combines with his regular duties a knowledge of sports and athletic games, and thus keeps in better touch with the boys. Athletic plays, games and sports are necessarily limited to the months outside the winter season, as the unsuitable nature of the buildings does not allow room for

proper recreation or physical training, thus subjecting the boys more or less to the weather conditions outside the buildings, and limiting the opportunity for a most necessary branch of training.

The Sloyd class in manual training has been continued without interruption during the past year, and is producing good results. The boys have attended to the studies with an interest and earnestness in their work which is commendable. The number of boys receiving this instruction is considerable. There are constantly four classes of twelve boys each, but this does not indicate the total number of boys instructed during the year, as changes in the membership of the class are constantly occurring through pardon or expiration of sentence. With the institution transferred to the mainland, and possessing buildings of improved modern design, it will be not only possible but necessary to add the higher grades in manual training, by supplying wood-turning and machinists' departments, for the benefit of the Sloyd graduates.

Merit System.

Most of the boys sent to the House of Reformation are committed by the Court during minority. This by no means implies that they stay in the institution during this period, for they are kept only so long as they need the care and training that the institution can supply. Some remain less than a year, not many over two years. After that they may be placed on probation with the approval of the Court in their own homes or in other families, generally in the country. If they do not do well they are returned to the institution. Their stay in the House of Reformation is not regarded as a punishment, but as an opportunity for education, and the length of stay is not made in any way proportionate to the seriousness of the offence committed, and each boy is kept only so long as to make it reasonably sure that his character and self-control have been so much developed that he can be trusted outside the institution. Good conduct, hard study and faithful work (effort rather than accomplishment) are the main factors in determining whether a boy shall be released on probation, though of course, to a certain extent, the character of his home, and of some other home that may be found for him, must also aid in deciding on the exact time of a release.

The Trustees are proposing a merit system, to be based on marks given in all the departments of the institution by which each boy can tell just how good his standing is and what the probabilities are of his obtaining a release.

SUMMER HOSPITAL FOR INFANTS.

The work of the Summer Hospital on Rainsford Island was, when the Trustees came into office, already organized by Mr. Marshall, former commissioner of the Institutions Department, and put into the charge of Dr. Thomas M. Rotch who had conducted it the previous year. Under the circumstances it seemed best to the Trustees to avail themselves of Mr. Marshall's willingness to continue responsible for the hospital, and with the approval of the Mayor the matter was so arranged.

The report will accordingly be found with the report of the Penal Commissioner.

PARENTAL SCHOOL.

The Parental School (removed in 1896 from Deer Island to West Roxbury) was established for the purpose of confining and instructing such children under the age of fourteen years as are found to have become habitual truants from school. Such children are brought by a truant officer before the magistrate of the district, and are committed by him to the Parental School for a definite term. Such a child can, however, be released before the expiration of his sentence on terms agreed upon severally by the Superintendent of Schools of the city of Boston, the sentencing court, and the children's Board of Trustees. It has been found difficult to keep the work within the limits for which it was established because of the introduction into the school of many boys who should have been sent to a reform school, and, in order to avoid difficulties thus introduced into the work, the Board of Trustees should be given the power to transfer such boys as are found to be fit subjects for a reform school to the House of Reformation, which is established by the city for this class.

The school has $27\frac{3}{4}$ acres of land situated on Spring street, West Roxbury, with a frontal of 1,000 feet on the Charles river. The property now includes the following buildings:

1. The school building, 94 feet 4 inches by 34 feet 8 inches. This building was constructed for use as a graded school building containing four school-rooms, but the overcrowding of the school has necessitated the taking of the two upper school-rooms for dormitories, thus crowding the school work into two small poorly ventilated cottage sitting-rooms, seats and desks.

The boys sleeping in the large school building are obliged to go to the kitchen building described below.

2. The laundry, kitchen and boiler-house, 53 feet 8 inches by 62 feet 6 inches. This building is used as a bake-house, laundry, kitchen and boiler-room.

3. Ice-house, 41 feet 6 inches by 32 feet.

4. Two cottages known as No. 1 and No. 2. These are alike in construction, and are 114 feet by 27 feet. Each building provides for a family of forty boys. The upper part of the building has forty separate sleeping-rooms. The first floor has a kitchen, pantry, dining-room, two sitting-rooms — one for the boys and one for the officers. The basements are used for play-rooms, bath-rooms, closets, etc.

5. Farm-house, 36 feet by 20 feet. The lower floor is used as a manual training-school; the upper used for rooms; the basement for storerooms.

6. Hospital, 117 feet by 30 feet. (Now used as a dormitory.)

7. Superintendent's house, 32 feet by 32 feet, with an ell 41 feet by 15 feet.

From this it will be seen that this institution is fitted, as far as cottage accommodation goes; to properly accommodate and instruct some eighty boys residing forty in each of two cottage dormitories and attending school in a central school building where they could be properly graded, and physically cared for in well-ventilated and lighted and furnished school-rooms. It has, however, been impossible to carry out the original plans, because of the excessive pressure of numbers. Therefore we found in June last the two upper school-rooms in the central school building in use as dormitories with boys sleeping, in some instances, three together in two beds, pushed side by side. To supply the place of the two school-rooms used as dormitories, schools have been improvised in the utterly unsuitable little hall sitting-rooms of the cottages where ordinary chairs and large tables serve in place of suitable seats and desks. The boys sleeping in the central building have to go to the kitchen building to take their meals, an arrangement which makes it impossible to use a carefully built brick oven opening into the room now used as a dining-room, thus crippling the bakery.

The number in June at the close of the school year was already 182; during the summer with releases and no new admissions the number fell to 168; but with the reopening of the school, numbers rose rapidly, till now the situation is very serious. The sleeping in bed together has been put a stop to, but the hospital has been invaded and beds placed in the space over the manual training school, in an old outbuilding, an entirely unsuitable place. The matter is aggravated by

the fact that we have in charge three truant girls who must all the time be kept carefully apart from the boys and who cannot be properly dealt with under present conditions.

Perhaps the most deplorable crowding is in the school-rooms where too many pupils are necessarily gathered.

The consequence is an inevitable pressure to consider questions of release, not with a single view to the boy's own welfare, but with some reference to the need of making room. As, however, releases are possible only with the approval of the Superintendent of Schools and the committing judge, release from any such reason would in any case be prevented. Until more room is provided the policy might be adopted of saying, we provide for the training of eighty truants, let these be the eighty worst truants of the city, and let the boy most nearly suitable to release go whenever a new truant is committed. This policy would mean a stultifying of the plan of the school; the chance of being picked out to be sent there would be small enough to encourage the truant to count on escape and the stay would come to be so short as to be little dreaded, while no motive would remain to make efforts for the sake of a release bound to come soon, in any case, for outside reasons.

This evil being prevented, not only by our own discretion but by that of the superintendent and judge, we are between the upper and nether millstones until provision is made for the number of truants which it seems the city must deal with.

We trust this need will be met by appropriations enabling us to set to work at the earliest possible moment. There should be built cottage dormitories accommodating, together, enough boys so that it would be possible to use the central building as a school-house only and to have no schools outside this building, to evacuate the hospital and the room over the manual training-school and to leave at least a slight margin for fluctuations beyond the present number. To accomplish this, 120 new beds should be made available.

REPORT OF THE AGENT FOR THE CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS DEPARTMENT.

To the Trustees for Children :

I respectfully submit my annual report, as agent for this department, for the year ending January 31, 1898, which includes five months under the Institutions Department and seven months since the creation of the Children's Institutions Department.

The duties are to receive, investigate and record all applications for the release of inmates from the House of Reformation, Parental School and Marcella-street Home, to find country homes or places of employment for juvenile offenders, whose own homes are undesirable, free and permanent homes for all children of the Marcella-street Home who are eligible for such, and boarding-places for the younger children, and to attend to the visitation of boys released on probation from the House of Reformation and the Parental School, and of children placed in free or boarding homes while in the custody of the department. In addition to this there is a large amount of office work.

INVESTIGATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR RELEASE.

Under this head are included the investigations made by the agency upon the application of parents or friends for the release of children from the several institutions under your charge, viz.: House of Reformation, Parental School, and the Marcella-street Home. It is the intention to have them carefully and thoroughly made.

The homes of the parents and friends are visited personally by some agent of the department, and inquiries made as to their character, habits and surroundings.

The whole number of cases investigated during the year is 384.

The figures in regard to these are as follows :

INSTITUTIONS.	Application for Release.	Granted on Probation.	Refused.	Application under Consideration.
House of Reformation	87	58	25	4
Parental School	149	72	74	3
Marcella-street Home, Neglected Children ..	24	6	14	4
Marcella-street Home, Pauper Children	124	90	29	5
Total	384	226	142	16

Of the boys released from the House of Reformation during the past and previous years still under supervision, the report was as follows :

Conduct bad and absconded	4
Conduct bad and returned to House of Reformation	11
Conduct bad and committed to other institutions	7
Gone to relatives outside the State, with the consent of this Department, and (when last heard from) doing well	7
With families that have moved away, leaving no address and not yet located	4
Placed in country homes	4
On probation at homes	52
Total	<u>89</u>

Of the fifty-two House of Reformation boys on probation in their own homes the report is :

Conduct fair	26	Working	31
“ medium	19	Trying to find work	10
“ bad	7	Attending school	11
	<u>52</u>		<u>52</u>

CHILDREN BOARDING.

The whole number of children boarded with families during the year is 540. Homes for these children have been carefully selected and frequently visited.

CHILDREN IN FREE HOMES OR ON INDENTURE.

The number of children in permanent homes is 420. Of these there are located:

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
In Massachusetts . . .	142	134	276
“ New Hampshire . . .	62	27	89
“ Maine	20	5	25
“ Vermont	10	1	11
“ Rhode Island	5	4	9
“ Connecticut	2	0	2
“ New York	1	2	3
“ New Jersey	0	1	1
“ Canada and the Provinces,	1	3	4
			<hr/> 420 <hr/>

Sixty-eight children have been placed in free homes during the year.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
From House of Reformation . . .	4	0	4
From Marcella-street Home . . .	23	27	50
Transferred from Boarding Department,	10	4	14

Of the 14 transferred, 4 were neglected — 10 paupers; viz.: neglected children, 3 boys, 1 girl; pauper children, 7 boys, 3 girls.

The ages of these children are as follows:

Over 3 and under 6 years	14
“ 6 “ “ 10 “	12
“ 10 “ “ 12 “	23
“ 12 “ “ 15 “	19
	<hr/> 68 <hr/>

Of indentured children, 92 boys and 81 girls were removed, some because those with whom they were placed failed to comply with the rules, and others for not being suited to the places. 115 of these were transferred to other places which awaited them, and the remaining 58 were boarded temporarily until other places were found. At the close of the year but 21 of this class were boarding. To those on indenture three visits have been made annually and in some instances more as required; 59 indentured children have passed from the control of the department during the year.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Arrived at age . . .	23	7	30
Absconded and not yet found,	5	0	5
Discharged to friends . . .	4	6	10
Guardians appointed . . .	2	3	5
Adopted	1	4	5
Married	0	2	2
Died	1	1	2
			<hr/> 59 <hr/>

The health of the indentured children has been remarkably good, only two deaths having occurred since my last report, one a boy of seventeen and the other a girl of twenty.

Two hundred and ten applications for children for indenture have been received; 134 at the office by letter or in person and 76 in connection with visits made to those previously placed out. Of the places offered 68 were filled, the remaining 142 were unfilled, because suitable children were not found, or because the places were unsatisfactory.

VISITATION.

The whole number of children subject to visitation at the close of the year is 836; on indenture, 420; boarding, 325; at their own homes, 91. Of these there came from

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
House of Reformation	94	0	94
Marcella-street Home	219	201	420
In boarding-houses during previous years,	184	138	322
			<hr/> 836 <hr/>

CONCLUSION.

We have received 3,700 letters and communications during the year from children and the families in which they live.

Replies have been made to all these, answering inquiries, and encouraging the children to continue the correspondence, this being considered one of the many ways to ascertain their conditions.

The demand for boys and girls over school age is greater than the supply.

Two of our charges have married during the past year and have settled in the neighborhood where they were indentured.

In closing, I desire to thank the members of the Board for personal courtesies and the interest taken in the work in which I am engaged.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN E. MCCARTHY.

MARCELLA-STREET HOME.

BOSTON HIGHLANDS, February 1, 1898.*To the Board of Trustees for Children :*

The annual report of this institution for the year expiring January 31, 1898, is hereby respectfully submitted:

Prior to the change of administration in June the most noteworthy events in the affairs of the Home for the year were the much-needed renovation of the old lavatories in the boys' dormitories and the construction of a new one on the upper floor; the building of a new refrigerator in the store; the replacement of some of our old bath-tubs by six new shower-baths; the removal of the city swill-plant from the rear of our central building, and, especially, an improved dietary for the children. From the first and the last two of these changes the inmates have greatly benefited. I regret to say, however, that neither the new refrigerator nor the new shower-baths have fulfilled expectations. The refrigerator can scarcely be said to be much of an improvement over its predecessor, while, owing to the style of shower-heads used in the baths, which send the shower directly down with a shock to the bather, we have found it impossible to bathe the smaller children in this way, and have been compelled in their cases to resort to the old method of tub-bathing.

In what now follows, the period since the coming in of the Trustees is especially considered.

EDUCATIONAL.

A radical change has been brought about in the schools. The system of conducting the Home classes by teachers hired by the Home was abandoned after the close of the last school year, and on October 27, 1897, a new public school, a part of the city school system, was opened in this building for the benefit of our inmates. Our teachers are now appointed by the School Committee, and paid from the regular school appropriation, which also defrays all expenses save the furnishing of the school-rooms and their lighting and heat.

Regarding the education of the children under my care as paramount, I have subordinated many other features of our home life to the schools. By changing the meal and sleeping hours, every child able to go to school is now not only

receiving the full complement of class time, but also an opportunity for reading and study, corresponding to the pupil's hour for home study.

The following is now the daily routine:

- 6 A.M. — Children rise, wash, etc.
- 7 A.M. — Breakfast.
- 7.30–8.45 A.M. — Housework and play when work is done.
- 8.45–9 A.M. — Prepare for school.
- 9 A.M.–12 M. — School (recess 15 minutes at 10.30).
- 12 M.–12.30 P.M. — Prepare for dinner, wash, etc.
- 12.30 P.M. — Dinner.
- 1–1.45 P.M. — Play.
- 1.45 P.M. — Prepare for school.
- 2–4 P.M. — School.
- 4–5 P.M. — Play.
- 5–5.30 P.M. — Prepare for supper, wash, etc.
- 5.30 P.M. — Supper.
- 6–7 P.M. — Play.
- 7 P.M. — Smaller children to bed.
- 7–8 P.M. — Larger children in reading-rooms.

We observe all the regular public school holidays, and the first Tuesday afternoon of every month is set aside as Visiting Day for the children's parents and friends. At other times I permit visits for sufficient reasons, guarding, however, the school hours from any distractions of this nature. There is, with these exceptions, practically no bar to the visits of the relatives of our inmates. Sunday morning is spent in chapel at Mass and Sunday-school. The afternoon is devoted to reading and quiet amusements.

PLANT.

Every day makes the unfitness of this old building for its present purposes more apparent. The ventilation is defective throughout; the flooring and walls are in many apartments so worn that it is not possible to clean the rooms properly; the roofs and roof-gutters are leaking badly in spots, while the basement in the boys' department, where much of the work of the Home centres, is in a noticeably dilapidated state. We have made liberal use of paint, whitewash and soap and water, but these cannot supply the lack of proper accommodations and facilities for carrying on the work of the Home. The doctors' rooms are in a particularly bad condition, hampering the efforts of the officers in keeping up a desirable

standard. The basement is cold and draughty, and in winter a menace to the health of both children and officers.

The institution is scattered over a great area, far in excess of actual needs, and entailing an amount of labor to keep it in order, much beyond the time and powers of the number of workers maintained. The plumbing is old and subject to continual repair; the laundry needs a thorough renovation; the bakery calls for a new floor; much of the entire building should be newly painted; the furniture in the officers' rooms and the beds and bedding of the children are practically worn-out; and the children have no place wherein to keep such individual possessions as come to them during their stay here. The best service the city can render its helpless wards, and the greatest honor it can do its own philanthropic name, is to sell out this old structure at once, and apply the proceeds to the erection of a more suitable Home, answering the requirements and standards of modern intelligent charity, in a locality better adapted to the physical welfare and comfort of the inmates. If this desirable outcome of the matter is to be long delayed, then a liberal expenditure of money should at once be devoted to remedying the pressing necessities of this place.

CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS DEPARTMENT.

MARCELLA-STREET HOME :

Salaries to January 27, 1898, inclusive.

Michael J. Dwyer, Superintendent	. \$1,670 70	
Employés . . . . .	. 14,300 71	
	<hr/>	\$15,971 41
Subsistence supplies for officers and inmates	. . . . .	13,160 06
Clothing and bedding . . . . .	. . . . .	4,120 19
Fuel . . . . .	. . . . .	2,722 88
Furniture, and household expenses	. . . . .	2,525 16
Water-rates . . . . .	. . . . .	1,993 80
Repairs and alterations . . . . .	. . . . .	1,716 95
Gas . . . . .	. . . . .	668 29
Fire-escapes . . . . .	. . . . .	550 00
Ice . . . . .	. . . . .	520 72
Horse-keeping . . . . .	. . . . .	451 59
Soap and laundry supplies . . . . .	. . . . .	345 88
Medical supplies and surgical instruments	. . . . . \$184 83	
Liquors . . . . .	. . . . . 11 40	
	<hr/>	196 23
Telephone service . . . . .	. . . . .	158 45
Support of children at Kindergarten for blind	. . . . .	139 77
	<hr/>	\$45,241 38
<i>Carried forward,</i>		

<i>Brought forward,</i>	\$45,241 38
Entertainments for inmates	98 38
Cartage and transportation	82 17
Books and papers	80 17
Insurance on boilers	75 00
Guns	65 00
Grounds	63 71
Stationery	63 36
Watering street	56 00
Rent of gas-regulator	44 00
Printing	37 17
Advertising	25 50
Expert work on dietary	21 45
Burial expenses	17 00
	<hr/>
	\$45,969 79
	<hr/>

ALTERATIONS, IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.

We are in a better state regarding fire than at the close of last year. The iron balconies outside the girls' dormitories have been remodelled, by means of connecting iron stairs, so as to secure a direct fire-escape to the ground, and a new fire-escape has been put up on the boys' side, opening from the two larger dormitories, which had never before been provided with a direct means of exit in case of fire. The old escape leading from the "Chapel" dormitory has also been repaired, and a complete set of new fire hose has replaced the old ones throughout the building. In compliance with the request of the Fire Department we have elevated the front gate 12½ inches, to permit the entrance of engines, trucks, etc., within the Home enclosure. To prepare for an emergency the children are given an occasional drill in vacating the house from the class-rooms and by means of the fire-escapes from the dormitories.

Many improvements, of a special character, will appear below in their particular paragraphs.

HEALTH.

The report of the Medical Staff, hereunto appended, will state in detail the number of cases and the nature of the diseases treated in our hospital wards and elsewhere during the year. In general, the health of the children has been excellent, and, with the exception of a short epidemic of

mumps last winter, we have not had many cases of the contagious diseases common to childhood. Everything of an infectious and contagious character is sent at once to the City Hospital, South Department, with resulting safety and protection to our other children. As a matter of extra precaution, in the month of September, after a chain of three scarlet fever cases, we had our boys' hospital dormitories, clothes-rooms, and dining-rooms, thoroughly disinfected by the Board of Health. The disease has not appeared since.

I had hoped to be able to report no deaths among the children during the year, the record being free from mortality for eleven months and a half. Almost at the last day, however, this happiness has been broken by the decease on the same day of two infants, Mary A. Sullivan, ten months old, who died of marasmus in a country home on January 19, and Nettie Stone, three months old, who died in this home, of pneumonia, from which she was suffering when admitted the day before her death.

I am happy to add, however, that even with these two deaths, the number is the lowest ever recorded since the Nursery Department was organized in 1885, which fact is in itself a high tribute to the good nursing and medical attendance given our babies in the Home and in the families where they are boarded. My thanks are due and are hereby extended to the members of the Medical Staff who gave their services gratuitously, and answer every special call with promptness; also to their representative, the resident Medical Interne in the Home, upon whom devolves the responsibility of carrying out the doctors' commands, and guarding the Home against any outbreak of contagious sickness.

During half the year the hospital service for the boys was rendered by pupil nurses from the Long Island Hospital, who served here for terms of six months each as part of their regular training. We have returned to the former plan of having a regular attendant, appointed as one of our officers; but I desire to express my appreciation of the kindness shown the sick boys by the nurses from Long Island during the period of their service here, and of the great interest taken by Miss Morris, their matron, in her visitations and advice.

LIBRARY.

We have made arrangements with the Boston Public Library for the furnishing of books on deposit. We receive fifty books at a time, and distribute them among our boys and girls, allowing each volume to circulate until all who desire

to read it have had an opportunity to do so. By this plan some seventy-five books are read every month by our boys and girls, and a monthly report of the same is sent to the Library.

DIET.

We are following the bills of fare for officers and inmates, introduced last winter by the committee appointed by the Mayor with such economies in the officers' table as your Board has from time to time requested. We rejoice in the improved quality of the bread made possible by receiving the first grades of flour in the market. Officers and children now eat the same bread, and the quantity consumed by the latter is a sufficient indication of its superior quality. The supplies furnished by contract call for constant vigilance as to the quality sent, and the efforts to combine variety of food with due economy of expenditure make this one of the most difficult questions in the Home. The diet for the children is given below:

DIETARY.

	<i>Breakfast.</i>	<i>Dinner.</i>	<i>Supper.</i>
SUNDAY:	Boiled rice and molasses, bread, Cereal coffee.	Baked beans, corn-starch, tapioca or rice pudding.	Milk or cocoa, bread and butter, apple or prune sauce.
MONDAY:	Oatmeal and molasses, Cereal coffee.	Beef soup and vegetables, potatoes, bread.	Corn-bread and butter, coffee, bread and butter.
TUESDAY:	Corn-meal and molasses, bread, Cereal coffee.	Mutton stew, bread, bread pudding.	Bread and butter, gingerbread, milk or cereal coffee.
WEDNESDAY:	Oatmeal and molasses, bread, Cereal coffee.	Corned beef and vegetables, bread, potatoes.	Beef hash, bread and butter, milk or cereal coffee.
THURSDAY:	Rice and molasses, Cereal coffee, bread and milk.	Bean soup and vegetables, boiled potatoes.	Corn-bread and butter, apple or prune sauce, milk, bread.
FRIDAY:	Oatmeal and molasses, bread, Cereal coffee, milk.	Fish chowder or baked fish and potatoes, bread.	Bread, cheese, gingerbread, milk.
SATURDAY:	Corn-mush and molasses, bread, Cereal coffee, milk.	Beef soup, potatoes, bread.	Bread and butter, prune sauce, milk and cereal coffee.

The sick children get the diet prescribed by the doctors, and the hospital children are favored very often with dessert and other extras from the Superintendents' and officers' tables.

CHANGES.

The year has been prolific of change in the *personnel* of officers, and in many features of Home management. At the direction of the Trustees the positions of assistant superintendent, clerk, house officer, gardener, and expressman have been discontinued, and several others are in process of reorganization. In November we ceased supplying the Charlestown Almshouse with bread, a change enabling us to dispense with the services of the assistant baker, who was transferred to the said institution as baker. At the direction of the Trustees also the two horses attached to this Home were transferred to Deer Island and Rainsford Island respectively, leaving the Home dependent altogether upon local expresses for the delivery of its supplies.

Several new positions have been created in lieu of those dispensed with. Miss Ella S. Morrow, for many years teacher of the girls' grammar school has been made Children's Matron to superintend the general work of the Home among the children, and two new assistant matrons and two house-workers have been appointed. These workers are employed right among the children in what most closely concern their bodily welfare and deportment, and I hope will effect rapid improvement in the general conditions.

A decided advance on old methods effected at the expense of much time and labor, is our new way of apportioning the children's clothing. Every boy and girl has now a number which is stamped on every article of apparel and gives to its owner a responsibility for the clothing which was never before fixed. The changes of clothing are distributed on the same plan, so that all the children have their own clothes to wear and be responsible for. I have torn down the old clothes-boxes in the basement, which were so long an eyesore and a scant storing-place for clothes, shoes, etc. One of the smaller dormitories has been fitted up as well as resources permitted as a clothes-room and answers fairly well for the purpose. There is no doubt, however, that we should have suitable lockers for the clothes and other possessions of the children.

The girls have now each a box for hair-brush, comb and tooth-brush and all the children have hooks in the wash-room for their own towels. The hair-brush boxes will be put in

for the boys as soon as practicable. We have stopped the custom of keeping the girls' hair short, hoping to be able to teach them to care for it properly while permitting its full natural growth.

The girls' sewing-room has also materially benefited from a change in sewing machines. Seven of the old ones, which had been in use for many years have been replaced by more modern machines, guaranteed to give the best of service for five years. The change was long needed, and will prove helpful to the sewing matron and the girls who are learning the use of machines.

The marking process has been extended to all departments, towels and linen of every description, facilitating its distribution and placing definitely the responsibility for its care.

The old cotton table-cloths in the dining-rooms have given place to substantial linen ones, and the boys' almshouse bibs to linen napkins and rings, all of which impart a greater home air to the meals of the children, and help them to more refined manners.

As a stimulus to the children's minds, I have organized a Boys' Home Club and a Girls' Sitting-room, where amid surroundings conducive to reading and intelligent recreation, the larger children are permitted to congregate at night and on alternate evenings play at games, read their school books or the books from the library. A movement has been started to induce voluntary workers from the outside to interest themselves in the children by forming classes in reading, history, and other special branches of study. Already several such classes are carried on by charitable ladies, and I hope that the work can be extended so as to embrace all the boys and girls.

To break the monotony of institution life I allow a number of the children the privilege of going out Sundays to see their friends and the objects of interest about the city. The teachers and officers, too, frequently take a number of the children to places of interest and amusement, all of which helps to brighten and animate their lives. Some of the scrubbing formerly done by the children I have given to be done by the laundry women. Owing, however, to the greater demands upon the laundry for extra mangling and more hand-washing, the women can do but a small portion of the great amount to be done. To clean up this institution from day to day by hired help would entail the services of two or three scrub-women, working steadily every day.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES, ENTERTAINMENTS, ETC.

In March last Rev. J. H. Rache, S.J., Catholic chaplain of the Home, was by his superiors transferred to another field of labor, and pending the appointment of a permanent successor the Catholic children were ministered to by Rev. Fathers Byrne and Schmidt, of the Society of Jesus. On Easter Sunday a large number of the boys and girls made their First Communion, and in May about fifty of them received the sacrament of Confirmation at the hands of Right Rev. John Brady, D.D., auxiliary bishop of Boston. The present Catholic chaplain of the Home is Rev. Jas. F. Dawson, S.J., who takes a great interest in the spiritual welfare of the children, spending every Sunday morning among them at Mass and Sunday-school, and coming at other times as well to instruct and entertain them.

The Sunday-school for the Protestant children was maintained every Sunday afternoon by a corps of workers attached to the Christian Endeavor Society of the Walnut-avenue Congregational Church, under the efficient direction of Mr. Stephen G. Clark. Latterly the numbers attending the Sabbath classes became so few that it was deemed desirable to discontinue the work in the Home and to take the children out to church. This is now done, the children being received among the different classes of the regular Sunday-school of this church.

My sincere thanks are due, and are hereby cordially extended, to those who in one way and another have shown kindnesses to the children under my care during the past year: to the managers of the chutes and baseball grounds for their frequent permission to the children to enjoy their amusements; to the Boston Institute Shore Home for numerous summer outings for the children; to the Children's Island Sanitarium for a fortnight's vacation to eleven of our crippled children; to Mrs. Alice N. Lincoln for gifts of apples and children's chairs; to the Sisters of Notre Dame for their constant attendance in the Sunday-school; to Miss Alice Wells for summer class-work; to Fathers Moylan and McGuigan of All Saints Church for a picnic at Apollo garden; to the Young Men's Catholic City Point Association for a minstrel entertainment; to the Catholic Union of Boston for a Christmas donation of twenty-five dollars through Father Dawson; to Rev. D. W. Waldron, City Missionary, for Easter cards; to the teachers and pupils of the Lowell School, and to Mr. D. W. Jones, their principal, for Christmas presents; to Mrs. H. A. Lamb for a number of beautiful photogravures for the

Boys' Club Room; to Miss Emily G. Balch for two canaries for the Nursery and Girls' Hospital; to Mrs. W. J. Quinn, and Mr. Charles V. Dasey for pictures; to Mrs. R. V. Crosby, Miss Sturgis, Misses Julia and Margaret Hunnewell, Mrs. Edward Clark, Mrs. D. T. V. Hunton and Mrs. George G. Lowell for special kindness and interest in behalf of individual children; and to the teachers of the Catholic and Protestant Sunday-schools, and many other friends, too numerous to mention, who, by gifts, services as entertainers and otherwise, have given pleasure and benefit to the children and assistance to myself in providing useful and agreeable diversion from the chronic dulness of an institution routine.

BAKERY.

During the year we have baked the following number of loaves of bread and cake:

For Marcella-street Home, 23,505 loaves of bread, weighing 58,763 pounds.

For Charlestown Almshouse, from February 1 to November 13, 1897, 12,927 loaves of bread, weighing 32,318 pounds.

For Marcella-street Home 43,380 pieces gingerbread.

For Charlestown Almshouse, February 1, 1897, to November 13, 1897, 14,325 pieces gingerbread.

In addition we baked for the inmates of Marcella-street Home 11,900 pounds of corncake, and for their holiday meals 2,100 rolls and 110 pies.

STATISTICS.

Following is the number of admissions and discharges during the year:

Number remaining on the records January 31, 1897:

Neglected boys	81	
Pauper boys	239	
Neglected girls	35	
Pauper girls	130	
	<hr/>	485

Number received from January 31, 1897, to January 31, 1898:

Neglected boys	13	
Pauper boys	120	
Neglected girls	14	
Pauper girls	90	
	<hr/>	237

Total number in institution during the year . . .	<hr/> <hr/>	722
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Number discharged from January 31, 1897, to January 31, 1898:

Neglected boys	55
Pauper boys	.	.	.	.	.	126
Neglected girls	.	.	.	.	.	17
Pauper girls	.	.	.	.	.	83
						<hr/> 281

Number remaining on records January 31, 1898:

Neglected boys	.	.	.	.	.	39
Pauper boys	.	.	.	.	.	233
Neglected girls	.	.	.	.	.	32
Pauper girls	.	.	.	.	.	137
						<hr/> 441

Highest number on the records of the institution during the year	.	.	.	.	.	493
Lowest number on the records of the institution during the year	.	.	.	.	.	434
Daily average	.	.	.	.	.	<hr/>463

As the majority of the children are now boarding in private families the following figures are necessary:

Highest number kept in the Home during the year	.	321
Lowest number kept in the Home during the year	.	160
Daily average	.	<hr/> 240

Our Home census on January 31, 1898, is as follows:

Neglected boys	.	.	16	Total boys	.	.	110
Pauper	"	.	94	Total girls	.	.	50
Neglected girls	.	.	11	Total neglected	.	.	27
Pauper	"	.	39	Total paupers	.	.	133
			<hr/>				
Total	.	.	160				

Our discharged inmates went to the following:

To friends	.	.	.	.	.	.	188
To homes provided by agent	.	.	.	.	.	.	64
To Overseers of the Poor	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
To Parental School	.	.	.	.	.	.	¹ 12
To Massachusetts School for the Feeble-minded	.	.	.	.	.	.	13
Died	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
							<hr/> 281

¹ These were truants committed to the Parental School and sent to Marcella-street Home on account of overcrowding the school where they belonged. They were returned to the Parental School by direction of the Trustees.

Of the 237 children admitted during the year 16 per cent. were between the ages of eleven and fourteen, 48 per cent. between five and eleven, and 36 per cent. were under five years of age.

NURSERY.

This department has, under the present administration, become practically merged in the general outside work of the department. Prior to that the Nursery embraced all children under five years of age. These were sent into the country soon after admission, and, as a rule, brought back at the age of five to enter the kindergarten. The kindergarten has now been abandoned. No limit is now set to stay of children in the outside homes, and children of all ages have been sent to board. The care of the visitation of children placed in outside homes, and finding of such homes now rests exclusively with the agents appointed by the board for this purpose.

The use of the old frame building on Highland street as a nursery for babies during such stay at the Home, as may be necessary, has been abandoned. It was wholly unsuited to such a purpose. One of the disused school-rooms has been changed into a nursery, and the change is a great improvement.

The number of children under five years received during the year, with their respective ages, is as follows :

Under six months	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Between 6 months and 12 months	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
“ 12 “ “ 18 “	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
“ 18 “ “ 24 “	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
“ 24 “ “ 36 “	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	21
“ 36 “ “ 48 “	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	17
“ 48 “ “ 60 “	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	17
								—
Total	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	85

The first child was received in the Nursery Department, September 2, 1885.

	Received.	Cared for.	Died.	Death- rate.
Between Sept. 2, 1885, and Dec. 31, 1885....	46	46	1	2.1
“ Dec. 31, 1885, “ “ 1886....	122	157	31	19.7
“ “ 1886, “ “ 1887....	98	180	24	13.3
“ “ 1887, “ “ 1888....	118	210	10	4.7
“ “ 1888, “ “ 1889....	96	182	7	3.8
“ “ 1889, “ “ 1890....	82	173	3	1.7
“ “ 1890, “ “ 1891....	108	185	9	4.8
“ “ 1891, “ Jan. 31, 1893....	106	175	9	5.1
“ Jan. 31, 1893, “ “ 1894....	74	129	6	4.6
“ “ 1894, “ “ 1895....	101	153	6	3.9
“ “ 1895, “ “ 1896....	63	129	4	3.1
“ “ 1896, “ “ 1897....	96	158	8	5.06
“ “ 1897, “ “ 1898....	85	168	2	1.2

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL J. DWYER,
Superintendent.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

BOSTON HIGHLANDS, February 1, 1898.

J. E. GOLDTHWAIT, M.D.:

DEAR SIR: The annual report of the hospital of this institution is respectfully submitted. During the year the following diseases have been treated:

ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet fever	4
Varicella	2
Diphtheria	3
Parotitis	52
Typhoid fever	1

NERVOUS DISEASES.

Epilepsy	1
Chorea	3
Convulsions	1

SKIN DISEASES.

Lupus	2
Psoriasis	2
Ichthyosis	2
Eczema	8
Erysipelas	1
Acne	1
Tinea trichophytina	7
Dermatitis medicamentosa	1
Urticaria	1
Herpes zoster	1
Hyperidrosis	1

THROAT.

Tonsillitis	5
Pharyngitis	1
Hypertrophy of pharyngeal tonsil	2

LUNGS.

Bronchitis	3
Pleurisy	1
Pneumonia	2
Chronic bronchitis	1
Emphysema	1
Tuberculosis	2

DIGESTIVE TRACT.

Gastritis	1
Acute indigestion	1
Constipation	7
Stomatitis	4
Enteritis	1
Appendicitis	1

EYE.

Blepharitis	2
Conjunctivitis	6
Mebomian cysts	1
Keratitis	4
Ulcers of cornea	2
Leucoma	1
Iritis	3
Strabismus	4

GENERAL DISEASES.

Rheumatism	1
Rachitis	1
Influenza	1
Heart disease	2

EAR DISEASES.

Furuncle	2
Otitis media (purulent)	18
Ostitis media (chronic)	3

SURGICAL FRACTURES.

Inferior maxillary	1
Tibia	1
Elbow	1
Phalanx (thumb)	1

TUBERCULAR.

Pott's disease	3
Hip disease	3
Synovitis knee	1
Tubercular glands	4
Teno-synovitis	1

INFLAMMATIONS.

Furuncle	4
Paronychia	11
Synovitis knee	1
Abscesses	4
Periostitis	2
Ostes myelitis	1
Suppurating glands	1
Synovitis hip	1

MISCELLANEOUS.

Prolapsus recti	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Hernia, inguinal	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
“ umbilical	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Sprain (ankle)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Club foot	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Bow legs	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Incised wounds	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	50.
Contused wounds	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
Teeth extracted	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	33
Phymosis	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
Perpurial adhesions	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	78
Burns	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
Polypus	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1

There are twenty-one girls and fifty-nine boys being treated as dispensary cases.

Ears	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Eyes	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Skin	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
Hip	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Tubercular glands	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Hereditary syphilis	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Burns	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Wounds	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
Alveolar abscesses	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Chapped hands	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	35
Cough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2

There are in the hospital at the present time six girls and six boys.

Operation wounds	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Infected wounds	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Syphilis (or lupus)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Inspection	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Chronic bronchitis	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Iritis	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Bronchitis	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Fracture	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Hip disease and tumor albus	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Pott's disease	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Tubercular teno-synovitis	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1

Twenty-six children have been vaccinated.

The eyes and ears are tested, and a general examination made of each child who enters the home.

ROBERT HINCHEY,
House Officer.

THE MEDICAL STAFF.

Physicians.

Dr. W. H. Robey, Jr.
Dr. M. P. Southwick.
Dr. F. J. Cotton.

Surgeons.

Dr. J. E. Goldthwait.
Dr. Arthur L. Chute.
Dr. W. P. Coues.

Ophthalmologists.

Dr. John A. Tenney.

Dr. E. E. Thorpe.

House Officer.

Mr. Richard Hinchey.

Boston, January 31, 1898.

The Medical Staff respectfully submit the following report:

The health of the children has been good during the past year. There have been no epidemics since the epidemic of mumps last winter. Three cases of scarlet fever occurred during the summer, and a few isolated cases of diphtheria have occurred during the year, a prompt disinfection has been made after each case was sent to the hospital.

Much improvement has been made in the dormitories, especially in that used by the children who were obliged to be awakened at night. A satisfactory number of hygienic water-closets have been put in the building, and the arrangement of beds in the dormitories is much improved.

According to the Board's suggestion, the eyes and ears of the children are tested before they are permitted to go to school, and all children undergo a physical examination before they are put out to board. The cottage where infants at the home were formerly kept, a most unhealthy place, has been abandoned, and one of the lower school-rooms is at present used for this purpose, a great change for the better.

Because of the improved condition of the Home, cases which formerly had to be sent to the hospital to be operated on are now operated on at the Home.

This report is respectfully submitted.

W. P. COUES, M.D.,

Secretary of Staff.

HOUSE OF REFORMATION.

RAINSFORD ISLAND, BOSTON HARBOR.

To the Trustees, Children's Institutions Department :

I herewith submit my annual report of this institution for the year ending January 31, 1898 :

The present number of boys in the school is 159, an increase of thirty-two during the year.

This increase in number taxes our accommodation to the utmost, and the importance of new and commodious buildings becomes more apparent. A classification and separation into groups or families of thirty boys each is indispensable to accomplish the best results in a school of this character — a change which cannot be effected in our present location. In view of the fact that an opinion prevails, in which I heartily concur, that this island is not of sufficient size upon which to build and equip a suitable institution for boys, I refrain from recommending any further expenditure of money for the development of this plant, but hope for a speedy action on the part of the city government, appropriating a sufficient amount to purchase an estate on the main land, large enough for a thoroughly equipped and modern institution.

The schools, three in number, are taught by Mr. Henry C. Twitchell, Mrs. Maude Gates Everett and Miss Annie L. Murphy. The condition of the schools has been much improved by the substitution of female teachers for male teachers in two class-rooms. The schools are graded as much as it is possible, according to the intellectual advancement of the boys. The constant changes by admissions to, and discharges from, the school, necessitates frequent promotions from the lower to the higher grades, most of the boys entering the lower grade when admitted. These frequent promotions hinder somewhat the work of the teachers. The number of boys assigned to each teacher is too great. Much more could be accomplished were it possible to increase our force of teachers. Notwithstanding these difficulties, good progress is being made. The class of boys sent to a school of this kind, coming as they do from the lowest grades of society, requires the best talent obtainable in a teacher to arouse in them a desire to improve their minds, and to direct their thoughts from viciousness into newer and

higher planes. The work of the teachers is worthy of commendation.

The Manual Training and Industrial Departments have been continued during the year with satisfactory results. The industrial training given boys while here has been the means, in many cases, of their obtaining employment when released, which is exceedingly gratifying, and encourages a continuance and improvement of our industrial work. The interest manifested by all boys, to whichever department assigned, is very marked, and in many cases rapid development is noted. The instructors in the different branches have worked zealously, and have accomplished much.

The instruction in band music still continues. Frequent changes among the members precludes a desirable proficiency, but it affords much pleasure and profit to the members, and great enjoyment to the whole school. It is an important adjunct to all entertainments gotten up by the boys.

For reading-matter we have access to the Boston Public Library, and have a sufficient number of books constantly on hand to supply all who read. A portion of the books are returned every month and others drawn out. The boys are generally fond of reading and appreciate the advantages this plan affords them. In addition to the above, we are in receipt of numerous magazines and periodicals from friends, who have our thanks for the same.

The religious instructions have been conducted regularly by Rev. William B. Toulmin for the Protestants, and by the Rev. Fathers Casey and Finnegan for the Catholic boys. Rev. Father Brennan has visited us at regular times, hearing confessions of the boys.

The general health of the boys has been good. Two deaths have occurred during the year. A few minor accidents, incident to boys, are noted. I desire to extend to Dr. Wentworth, Superintendent at Long Island, and to the members of his medical staff, my thanks for professional services so cheerfully rendered by them.

The holidays have been appropriately observed. March 11, Dr. William H. Prescott gave the boys a very interesting lecture upon Australia, with illustrations by a stereopticon, which afforded them much pleasure and profit. June 11, the school was given an excursion about the harbor, visiting the war vessels then temporarily located here.

I would recommend that some means be adopted by which the boys may have the advantage of more lectures upon interesting and instructive subjects.

The agricultural productions are of the usual quantity and variety, affording us a generous supply of fresh vegetables in their season, adding much to the dietary of the boys. Following is a summary of the productions :

Apples	8 bbls.
Beans, string	5 bushels.
Beets	60 “
Carrots	40 “
Corn, sweet	45 “
Cabbages	1,500 heads.
Celery	1,000 “
Chickens	110
Cucumbers (estimated)	53 bushels.
Ducks	42
Eggs	480 dozen.
Hay (estimated)	2 tons.
Lettuce	585 heads.
Onions	60 bushels.
Parsnips	158 “
Pears	2 “
Peppers	2 “
Peas (estimated)	8 “
Pork	4,000 lbs.
Rhubarb	100 “
Radishes (estimated)	2 bushels.
Squashes	300
Tomatoes (estimated)	50 bushels.
Turnips	30 “

PRINTING DEPARTMENT.

Twenty-five different boys have received instruction in the printing-office during the year, a daily average of eighteen. The aim of the work is to give the boys as much information as possible of the different branches of the business, during the time they remain with us. While some boys are able to show more improvement and to do better work than others, the general proficiency of the class is very good. The excellence of the work turned out by the class speaks for itself, as the sample of each job kept on file at the office will amply testify.

The publication of the “Leader” has continued throughout the year. Between 550 and 600 copies are printed monthly and distributed among our boys, and sent regularly to the other institutions in the department. We also have a number of exchanges with institutions throughout the country, from which papers are published.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Dr.

Value printing plant January 31, 1897. . . .	\$1,850 00	
New type and stock purchased	595 94	
Repairs on presses	61 40	
Repairs on engine	7 53	
	<hr/>	\$2,514 87
Net income for year	1,458 88	
	<hr/>	<u>\$3,973 75</u>

Cr.

Job printing, Almhouse, Long Island	\$179 50	
Job printing, Almhouse, Charlestown	11 50	
Job printing, Children's Department	354 25	
Job printing, House of Correction, Deer Island	328 25	
Job printing, House of Correction, So. Boston	33 75	
Job printing, House of Reformation and publishing the "Leader"	701 75	
Job printing, Insane Hospital, Austin Farm	35 25	
Job printing, Insane Hospital, Pierce Farm	16 00	
Job printing, Marcella-street Home	57 25	
" " Parental School	21 25	
" " Pauper expense	85 25	
" " Office expense	184 25	
" " Penal Institutions	40 50	
" " Str. "John Howard"	2 00	
" " Summer Hospital	23 00	
Value of plant and stock on hand January 31, 1898	1,900 00	
	<hr/>	<u>\$3,973 75</u>

SHOE DEPARTMENT.

Forty-nine boys have received instruction in the shoe-making class during the year, a daily average of twenty-five. The degree of proficiency attained varies in individual cases, depending upon the natural capabilities of the boy and the length of time he is with us. The work turned out by the class is quite satisfactory and shows constant improvement. We have recently added a Standard Screw Machine to the plant, by which hand-nailing is avoided, and the quality of product much improved.

The design of the class-work is instruction and not production, and we are pleased to note that several boys who have been released from school during the year have been enabled by the instruction received here to obtain employment, and are doing well.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Dr.

Value of plant, January 31,		
1897	\$1,200 00	
Stock on hand	130 50	
Sole leather purchased	919 09	
Upper leather purchased	685 10	
Machinery purchased	146 07	
36 pairs men's iron bottom		
lasts, at \$1.15	41 40	
72 pairs boys' iron bottom		
lasts, at 1.10	79 20	
48 pairs youths', 1.10	52 80	
3 bags	30	
Findings	460 88	
	<hr/>	\$3,715 34
Net income for the year		860 06
		<hr/>
		<u>\$4,575 40</u>

Cr.

Shoes sold :		
Children's Department, 239 pairs	\$237 90	
Henry Stern & Co., 108 pairs	54 00	
Boston Asylum and Farm School, 168		
pairs	134 40	
House of Correction, South Boston, 205		
pairs	225 50	
Almshouse, Long Island, 148 pairs	160 75	
Almshouse, Charlestown, 73 pairs	88 75	
Marcella-street Home, 351 pairs	315 90	
Parental School, 34 pairs	42 50	
House of Reformation, 438 pairs	476 12	
Shoes repaired :		
House of Reformation, 844 pairs	152 50	
Marcella-street Home, 27 pairs	6 75	
Shoes on hand, 651 pairs	469 50	
Shoes in process of manufacture	424 46	
Leather, findings, etc., on hand	266 60	
Value of plant, January 31, 1898	1,519 77	
	<hr/>	\$4,575 40
		<u><u>\$4,575 40</u></u>

EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1898.

Salaries :

Lorenzo D. Perkins, Super-

intendent . . . \$1,800 00

Employés . . . 8,165 87

\$9,965 87

Subsistence . . . 7,019 01

Clothing and bedding . . . 3,878 10

Fuel and light . . . 1,478 68

Furniture and furnishings . . . 1,340 54

Repairs and alterations . . . 819 36

Books and papers . . . 286 36

Agricultural supplies . . . 280 72

Military equipment . . . 240 75

Water-rates . . . 200 00

Stationery and postage . . . 193 13

Oils . . . 153 23

Telephone service . . . 166 50

Soap and laundry supplies . . . 93 35

Printing . . . 32 71

Religious services . . . 29 33

Entertainments for inmates . . . 27 50

Medical supplies . . . 22 04

Expert work on dietary . . . 11 45

Ice . . . 11 25

Cartage . . . 5 88

Printing office stock, materials and
repairs . . . 1,159 60

\$27,415 36

PAYMENTS OF EXPENSES (FROM AUDITOR'S OFFICE.)

	1896-1897.	1897-1898.
February	2,031 66	1,295 74
March	1,697 85	1,348 67
April	1,985 79	2,523 40
May	1,830 17	3,493 47
June	1,524 42	2,494 19
July	4,582 06	3,260 45
August	3,735 97	1,985 90
September	5,151 82	1,922 27
October	2,834 72	2,078 63
November	2,424 76	1,660 77
December	2,988 33	2,987 29
January	2,348 40	2,215 18
January 31	2,413 68	150 00
	<hr/> \$35,549 63 <hr/>	<hr/> \$27,415 36 <hr/>

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Number of boys remaining January 31, 1897	127
Committed during the year	93
	<hr/>
	220
Discharged	61
	<hr/>
Remaining January 31, 1898	159
	<hr/>
Largest number during the year	163
Smallest number during the year	127
Average number	144
	<hr/>

OFFENCES FOR WHICH COMMITTED.

Assault and battery	3
Assaulting a policeman	1
Attempting to break and enter	2
Attempting to commit larceny	1
Breaking and entering	12
Breaking pane of glass	1
Idle and disorderly	2
Larceny	42
Obstructing passage of foot travellers	1
Stubborn child	21
Throwing missiles in public place	6
Trespass	1
	<hr/>
	93
	<hr/>

Of the above, four boys were returned from probation.

SENTENCES OF THOSE COMMITTED.

Minority	70
Non-payment of fine	22
Two years	1
	<hr/>
	93
	<hr/>

CAUSES OF DISCHARGES.

Pardoned	27
Expiration of sentence	10
Fines paid	10
Died	2
Error in commitment	2
	<hr/>
	61
	<hr/>

NATIVITY OF THOSE COMMITTED.

Boston	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	49	
Massachusetts	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10	
Maine	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	
New York	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	
Kentucky	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	
United States	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		65
New Brunswick	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	
Nova Scotia	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	
Newfoundland	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
British America	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		5
Russia	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9	
Ireland	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	
Italy	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	
England	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Germany	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Europe	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		20
Unknown	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		3
Total	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		<u>93</u>

AGES OF THOSE COMMITTED.

10 years	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
11 "	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
12 "	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
13 "	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	20
14 "	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	28
15 "	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	30
16 "	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
17 "	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
										<u>93</u>

Respectfully submitted,

L. D. PERKINS,

Superintendent.

TEACHER'S REPORT.

L. D. PERKINS, Esq.,

Superintendent, House of Reformation :

DEAR SIR: Complying with your request, I submit to you the following report of the school at Rainsford Island :

All the boys in the institution attend school every day, excepting in rare instances of illness, or being detained to perform some outside labor in cases of emergency.

The school is divided into three grades. The class-rooms, having a seating capacity as follows: First division, 80; second division, 50; third division, 40, which indicates about the average attendance in each grade. The teachers employed in the several rooms are Henry C. Twitchell, first division; Mrs. Maude L. Everett, second division; Miss Annie L. Murphy, third division.

Possibly our school-work may differ from that of some other institutions in this respect, that while not designed for exhibition or show, it is our purpose to give to each pupil all the benefits possible (during his limited stay with us) of such a practical education as would seem likely to be of advantage to him in after life. Upon a boy's admission to the institution he is examined in regard to his proficiency and ability, and assigned to such class-room as seems best adapted to his condition.

In some instances boys enter the third division who have scarcely received any school instruction before their admission to our institution. It is a work of infinite toil and patience to transform such material into "good pupils," and advance them through the various classes and grades during their detention here.

The third division contains the primary classes, carrying them through the fundamental rules of arithmetic, using the primary geography, teaching a little history, and a proportionate amount of other studies.

The second division advances them along these lines, and introduces some new features as adjuncts to the studies mentioned.

The first division continues the work, advancing them as far as possible, twenty-one boys having covered the ground thoroughly as far as "partial payments" in the Franklin Written Arithmetic.

In all the grades, reading, writing, spelling, geography, language, arithmetic, and something of history are taught. Considerable attention is paid to mental arithmetic, with a

view to the development of the reasoning powers of the pupils, in which they are generally deficient.

We are much pleased with Werner's Geography, which was introduced this term. It contains many new and interesting features.

The vertical system of writing recently adopted (although somewhat dreaded by the teachers at the start) has proven to be a decided success. The results obtained thus far exceeded our expectations, there being many instances of remarkable improvement during the short time it has been in use. The boys get more or less practice in the system, particularly in letter-writing, to which considerable attention is paid.

We have had several quite successful entertainments, for which "local talent" was furnished by the boys, under the direction of the teachers and officers, and which we think have been productive of good.

We have a very large number of boys in a school, especially in the first division. I think Superintendent Seaver is authority for the statement that thirty boys of this kind are as many as one teacher ought to have. It is impossible, without more class-rooms and more teachers, to grade the school so as to obtain the best results, our boys covering in point of age a far greater range than those of the Parental School. The frequent changes incident to numerous commitments and discharges also often seriously interfere with the progress of the school.

We trust that the conditions under which we labor are fully appreciated by you, and that they will be taken into consideration in passing judgment upon the work accomplished.

The other teachers join me in thanking you for your many kind words and suggestions.

Yours respectfully,

HENRY C. TWITCHELL,

Principal Teacher.

REPORT OF THE SLOYD DEPARTMENT.

To L. D. PERKINS :

Superintendent, House of Reformation :

There are four classes of twelve each taking the Sloyd course. The work is done outside of school hours — from 7.15 to 9.15 A.M. and from 3.45 to 5.15 P.M. The classes come on alternate days, thus giving each three lessons per week.

From September 11, when my work began, until January 31, fifty-nine boys have been in these classes. As soon as a place is vacant it is filled from the school.

The course of models is designed to be finished during the last three years of a grammar-school course by two hours' work a week. With six hours' work a week it should be completed in one year.

The pupils are taught to sharpen their tools in connection with their work.

The work here is individual, each boy working as fast as he is able and going on without waiting for any other member of the class. In some classes no two boys are at work on the same model. This adds to the interest taken in the work and insures better and more independent work. In addition to the wood-work, the boys make a working drawing of each model from which the model is made, before beginning the model. Each model, when completed, is marked as to the correctness of the measurements and the workmanship exhibited, by the boy himself. Afterward this is examined by me. Frequently the marks are unchanged, the boy estimating his own work so correctly. The gain in judgment and knowledge of how his work should be, is very beneficial to the boy. Besides these models three boys are kept busy with general repairing and making new objects of use.

The training in accuracy, perseverance and honesty coming from his work on wood, which shows just what has been done by him, and the delight of making something useful for those in whom he is interested, are important in developing his character. Brain and hand are developed at the same time.

Respectfully submitted,

KATE E. CONEY,

Teacher of Sloyd.

PARENTAL SCHOOL.

To the Trustees for Children:

The following is my third annual report of the Parental School. We have made no additions to our buildings this year. The number of boys has steadily increased. We have had to crowd every department to take care of them, even the hospital having to be used for sleeping-room. We have no building for girls, and so use part of the hospital, as it is the only building where isolation from the boys is possible. If we are to continue to have to receive girls here, we should at least have a special building for them. We have boys enough for four family buildings, and would recommend having two new cottages built, and grading completed, during next year. The ell on the Superintendent's house ought to be taken off and a new one put on. This was intended for summer use only, and built in a temporary manner. It is wholly unfit for a kitchen.

Our new cottages have been a success. It is more expensive to build cottages so that each boy can have a separate sleeping-room, but it costs no more to run them than a cottage on congregate system.

The health of the children has been good. Further information in regard to health and school work will be found in the reports respectively of physician and of the teachers.

Our schools are four in number, and are in better working order than ever before. The teachers and officers have been faithful in their duties, and deserve a great deal of credit for the success of the school during the past year.

The religious instructions have been the same as last year, Catholic boys attending Father Boyle's church, and Protestants the Protestant church. Father Boyle has made the boys presents, as usual, and they are very grateful for such favors.

The holidays have been suitably observed, and we have had various entertainments furnished by the city and by private individuals. Miss Nellie Locke and Miss Ruth Holt, of Roxbury, gave the boys entertainments which were highly appreciated. The boys are very much pleased with books and other reading-matter received from individuals and from the Highland Club, which gave them a large collection of useful books, magazines and papers.

During the year the Metropolitan sewer has been completed through these grounds, and we hope in the early spring to make connections with this system. This is a very important thing for the school, for our present system of sewerage would otherwise have had to be changed very soon, and the question of its disposition would have been a very serious one. The Metropolitan sewer will free the school from further difficulty on this head and give us a perfect system. The construction of the Metropolitan sewer has, however (in my opinion), caused the foundation of our boilers to settle in such a manner that it has had to have quite extensive repairs. After repairs are completed and a new boiler put in we shall be well supplied in this department.

The garden has supplied us with a liberal quantity of vegetables. We have quite a large bed of strawberry plants which will supply us next summer with berries if we judge by present appearances. The introduction of manual training into this school has proved to be a good thing for the boys. The boys are greatly interested in their work. We have four classes in this work each day, with seventeen boys in each class.

If we had a few more acres of land we could raise all the vegetables required in the school, and it would be a good thing for the boys to have work of this kind during the spring and summer months.

The products of the place are as follows, viz.:

Hay	9 tons.
String beans	20 bushels.
Pole beans	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ bushels.
Table beets	9 bushels.
Beet greens,	2 bushels.
Early beets	120 bunches.
Cabbage	1,584 heads.
Carrots	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels.
Celery	1,150 heads.
Cucumbers	3,420
Lettuce	1,200 heads.
Early onions	193 bunches.
Late onions	4 bushels.
Parsnips	10 bushels.
Green peas	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels.
Potatoes	17 bushels.
Radishes	384 bunches.
Rhubarb	134 lbs.
Turnips	72 bushels.
Squash	50

Sweet corn	6,456 ears.
Tomatoes	6½ bushels.
Apples	15 bushels.
Pears	5 bushels.
Cranberries	3 bushels.

Meat and Poultry.

Veal	97 lbs.
Pork	1,666 lbs.
Chicken	70 lbs.

EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1898.

Salaries :

Moses J. Perkins, Superintendent	\$1,200 00	
Employés	7,854 32	
		\$9,054 32
Subsistence supplies for officers and inmates		4,534 03
Clothing and bedding		2,294 80
Fuel		2,243 08
Repairs and alterations		2,089 03
Furniture and household supplies		857 94
Wagon, two sleighs, feed for animals and agricultural supplies		756 15
Gas		736 12
Water-rates		452 40
Books and papers		427 86
Telephone service		161 25
Soap and laundry supplies		148 20
Stationery		107 29
Ice		105 99
Medical supplies		45 00
Rent of gas regulator		37 00
Carting and transportation		32 61
Oils		22 75
Entertainments for inmates		20 50
Printing		12 11
Expert work on dietary		9 45
		\$24,147 88

THE STATISTICS OF THE SCHOOL ARE AS FOLLOWS :

Boys.

Remaining January 31, 1897	117
Committed during the year	167
Discharged	139
Returned from Marcella-street Home	12
Escaped returned	2
Returned from probation	10
Remaining January 31, 1898	169

Largest number during year (January 31, 1898)	.	.	.	.	.	.	169
Smallest	"	"	"	.	.	.	121
Average	"	"	"	.	.	.	152
Average age boys committed during year	.	.	.	.	.	.	12 yrs.

Girls.

Committed during year	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Returned from Marcella-street Home	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Remaining January 31, 1898	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Average age of girls	.	.	.	.	.	.	12 years, 2 months

Of the 179 boys reported July 1, 1897, 18 were at Marcella-street Home.

Ten boys were received from Marcella-street Home, September 4, 1897.

NATIVITY OF BOYS COMMITTED SINCE FEBRUARY 1, 1897.

Born in the U. S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	141
Born in Massachusetts	.	.	.	.	.	.	128	
New York	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	
Maine	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	
Rhode Island	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
New Jersey	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Pennsylvania	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Virginia	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
North Carolina	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
							—	141
Russia	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Canada	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
England	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
Italy	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Ireland	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
France	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Newfoundland	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Germany	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1

The daily programme of the institution is as follows: Rise, 5.30; recreation and preparation for breakfast, 5.30 to 6.20; breakfast, 6.20; work, 6.50 to 8.30; recreation and preparation for school, 8.30 to 9; school, 9 to 10.30; recess, 10.30 to 10.45; school, 10.45 to 11.30; recreation and preparation for dinner, 11.30 to 12; dinner, 12; work, 12.30 to 1.30; recreation and preparation for school, 1.30 to 2; school, 2 to 3.30; recess, 3.30 to 3.45; school, 3.45 to 4.30; recreation and preparation for supper, 4.30 to 5; supper, 5; recreation, 5.30 to 6; preparations of lessons for next day, 6 to 7; reading and preparation for retiring, 7 to 7.30; retire, 7.30.

While some of the boys are preparing the meals others have play.

ADMISSIONS.					DISCHARGES.				
1887	February	.	.	11	1897	February	.	.	3
	March	.	.	16		March	.	.	9
	April	.	.	25		April	.	.	10
	May	.	.	22		May	.	.	20
	June	.	.	4		June	.	.	10
	July	.	.	—		July	.	.	3
	August	.	.	—		August	.	.	6
	September	.	.	12		September	.	.	38
	October	.	.	42		October	.	.	27
	November	.	.	21		November	.	.	21
	December	.	.	10		December	.	.	10
1898	January	.	.	10	1898	January	.	.	7

The pupils who were discharged had been in the school for the following period of time:

2 months and less than 3 months	.	.	.	.	2
3 months and less than 4 months	.	.	.	.	6
4 months and less than 5 months	.	.	.	.	7
5 months and less than 6 months	.	.	.	.	3
6 months and less than 7 months	.	.	.	.	32
7 months and less than 8 months	.	.	.	.	4
8 months and less than 9 months	.	.	.	.	11
9 months and less than 10 months	.	.	.	.	3
10 months and less than 11 months	.	.	.	.	18
11 months and less than 12 months	.	.	.	.	2
12 months	.	.	.	.	76

The above list contains some boys who have been discharged twice, and those truants previously sent to the Marcella-street Home, discharged thence during the year.

The ages of the boys received during the year were as follows: Seven boys, 8 years old; 15 boys, 9 years old; 32 boys, 10 years old; 39 boys, 11 years old; 35 boys, 12 years old; 35 boys, 13 years old; 13 boys, 14 years old.

The commitments have been from the following districts: West Roxbury, 3; Central, 81; Dorchester, 10; Charlestown, 7; East Boston, 9; South Boston, 37; Brighton, 1; Roxbury, 28.

Some of the above list were committed twice during the year.

There have been, since the school opened September 11, 1895, 491 commitments, and at close of this year, January 31, 1898, all of the children have been honorably discharged

or are in school now. We have not had a permanent escape to date. We have had several attempts but few have succeeded, and these boys have remained out for but a short time.

There have been during the year twenty-five former inmates committed and ten returned from probation.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to the Commissioner and Trustees for the interest taken in this school.

Respectfully submitted,

M. J. PERKINS,
Superintendent.



